

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application.

General Comments Regarding Telephonic Interview

Applicants' Representative appreciates the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the recent telephonic interview on March 4, 2008. During the interview, an agreement was reached to combine Group I and Group II after clarifying that the substituent represented by the formula (XX) should fall in the list of one or not less than two substituents for a phenyl group represented by Ar. Group III is still restricted. The Examiner reminded Applicants that Group I/II may be subject to further restriction if necessary and that a single compound still needs to be elected.

Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has imposed a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 372 as follows:

Group I, claims 1-5, drawn to a composition comprising a benzamidine of formula (I) and at least one type of electrolyte, wherein Ar is a phenyl group;

Group II, claims 1-5, drawn to a composition comprising a benzamidine of formula (I) and at least one type of electrolyte, wherein Ar is a substituent represented by formula (XX); and

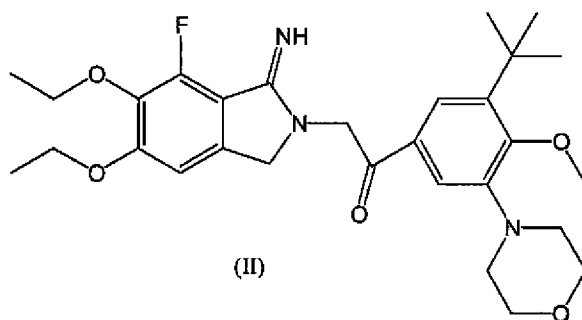
Group III, claims 6-8, drawn to a method for stabilizing a benzamidine, comprising the step adding to the said benzamidine derivative at least one type of electrolyte of halide salts.

As noted above, the Examiner has agreed to combine Group I and Group II. **For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, without traverse, Group I/II, Claims 1-5.**

Election of a Single Compound

The Examiner has also required Applicants to elect a single compound as the elected species for initial search purposes.

In response, Applicants elect, with traverse, the single compound represented by formula (II) recited in pending Claim 3 (which compound is shown below).



Applicants respectfully remind the Examiner that should the Examiner not find prior art, which renders the elected compound unpatentable, the Examiner is required to expand the search to include a reasonable number of additional species. (*See* MPEP 809.02.)

CONCLUSION

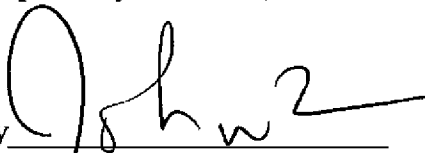
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John W. Bailey, Registration No. 32,881 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated:

MAR 11 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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